



Sentient Australia - Theme

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The following is an insight into the author's inspiration for creating 'Sentient.'

The smartest guys

We live in a time dominated by, 'the smartest guys in the room.'

Every decision they make is well thought out. Every decision sees them undertake due diligence and every decision is wrong.

The people that brought you the Iraq war, the GFC, climate denial and the surveillance state, have dominated contemporary human history and are arguably, leading us to ruin.

Theme - Leadership

I wanted to create a scenario where humanity was handed a gift, a chance to reboot the species and the planet.

It is a lesson we had to have but didn't want and it comes at great cost.

Image a life form, ubiquitous throughout the universe, with one function, responding to chemical distress signals sent out from dying planets.

Their very existence is proof of a creator without being an endorsement of any particular religion.

They come, they target the Number One predator on the planet, they reboot the planet then they leave but before they go, they leave a gift, the next evolution of the dominant species.

They save us, they save the planet and they evolve our species.

It's win-win unless the smartest guys in the room screw it up.

Radicalisation

Once the Sentient arrive, the battle is over.

The storm that accompanies the Sentient literally atomises most of humanity leaving Hiroshima-like ash shadows on walls.

Most of humanity is wiped out overnight but not all.

Some are taken over by the Sentient.

Some are able to resist the Sentient.

The Sentient then focus on mastering their new bodies and environment. They do not seek to harm the human survivors, rather to observe, mimic and learn from them.

Eventually they will seek mates. The children of the union of the Sentient and the human survivors will be the next evolution of humanity, 'hyper sapiens.'

The Sentient are shy and curious but terrifying in their occupation of the human form.

The human survivors are lead by a mix of conservative, military, political and religious leaders. The leaders represent, 'the smartest guys and gals in the room.'

Every decision they make is well thought out. Every decision sees them undertake their due diligence and every decision is wrong, leading the survivors to the worst possible confrontation with the Sentient and each other.

Our leaders, capture, incarcerate, perform medical experiments on, rape, torture and genocide the Sentient until the die is cast and there is no turning back from the terrible outcome awaiting the survivors of humanity.

The Sentient are disrupted. Their life force altered and as a result they adapt the human body into a terrifying threat to the survivors.

Colonisation

Sentient's inciting incident is an act of colonisation.

It starts with a genocide followed by another life form wearing us like suits.

The problem is, they do it well and they achieve balance with the environment.

They are better at being human than we are.

The Australian franchise of the story has chosen a senior Indigenous Naval Officer as our lead character.

What better way to explore the impact of colonisation than through the eyes of a culture that has already lived through it and adapted.

Now the European survivors seek revenge for their stolen land, culture and families and the person they turn to for action is an Indigenous Australian.

Lt. Commander Michael Dowd

Protagonist, Michael Dowd is a patriot. He follows his orders until he cannot stomach them any more. By the time Dowd realises the folly in play, it's too late.

The patriot betrayed

What happens to the patriot when they discover they have been used to serve the greed and perversities of powerful leaders?

What happens after they undertake every foul and contemptuous deed asked of them only to realise it was all a lie?

Dowd will discover there is a way to become a, 'people of the place' again.

Conclusion

Sentient is a story about paradise lost and the foolishness of flawed leadership.

It is a story of the abuse of the goodwill of those who serve.

It is a story of our time.

It is also a story of great hope, a third way and the next step in human evolution.

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